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System and Method for Managing Multiple Proxy Servers

ABSTRACT

A system and method for managing multiple proxy servers by a client computer. In one embodiment, the client computer's configuration is set to the fastest proxy server available. In another embodiment, a proxy table is accessed by the client computer to determine which proxy to use for a given web address. When a web address is included in the table, the corresponding proxy server is used to request the contents of the web address. If the web address is not included in the table, a default proxy server is used to request the information. In another embodiment, a periodic test is made to determine the speed of the current proxy server. If the speed is less than a predetermined threshold, the available proxy servers are all tested and the best-performing proxy server is selected. In another embodiment, aspects of each of the above-described embodiments are combined to provide a proxy server to a client computer based upon either a given web address (URL) or the fastest current proxy server.